

HOUSE BILL 253

By Freeman

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 1, Part 2, relative to dyslexia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-229(c), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) and substituting instead the following:

Provide the student with appropriate tiered dyslexia-specific intervention through services provided by a teacher trained in dyslexia intervention;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-229(f), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

"Teacher trained in dyslexia intervention" means a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) teacher who provides direct instruction to students identified pursuant to this section as students with characteristics of dyslexia, and who:

(A) Is endorsed in the appropriate general education area or holds the appropriate special education endorsement; and

(B)

(i) Has completed at least six (6) semester hours of postsecondary education coursework, or the equivalent contact hours, related to teaching students with dyslexia, as approved by the department of education; or

(ii) Has completed at least six (6) hours of professional development on evidence-based interventions and accommodations for students with dyslexia, as approved by the department of education.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-229, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(g) Beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the department of education shall employ at least one (1) dyslexia specialist with at least three (3) years of field experience in screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and related disorders to provide technical assistance to LEAs in screening, identifying, and treating dyslexia and related disorders.

(h) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each LEA that serves students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) shall employ at each public school located in the LEA at least one (1) teacher trained in dyslexia intervention.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.